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a building for today with a sense of the past.

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# Info-Cruising

If lately you have been wondering whether the Information Superhighway will have a slow lane, or why your data base can't seem to get to first base, you probably haven't been to the library. As an information center, as a place to access data through a technology network, as a source of media retrieval, the new, improved library of the 90s is ready to take you to the 21st century!

Schools call them "media centers," colleges are re-naming them "resource centers," and communities across the country are dubbing them "community access facilities." Whatever we call them, the traditional library will never be the same. Oh sure, there are still reading rooms and stacks loaded with books and reference material, but lurking just beneath the skin of the library is a pulsating infrastructure of technology and information access.

The new library is more a series of opportunities than a warehouse of knowledge. This is the place where you can plug into information of every type and source imaginable. Need access to data, music, video and current information from around the globe? You know where to go. Don't have your very own PC with

modem but still want to go jogging in cyberspace? Your library can beam you up, Scotty!

This all creates an interesting contradiction in library (and museum) architecture. Like many of our public institutions we want our local library to be contextual, community friendly, even traditional in its design and spatial ambiance. A facility which fits into the neighborhood like a minivan is good and a reading room which is warm, comfortable and residential is desirable. Under the hood, however, must beat the heart of a sports car, a technological powerhouse prepped and ready to burn rubber on the Info Superhighway!

*Place* has some good examples of how architects are meeting this contradiction head on. These examples

show buildings which can be high tech and at the same time warm and fuzzy. Technology has been very successfully integrated as the brain and nerve center, while retaining the traditional welcoming qualities which have made libraries and museums such great places to spend an afternoon.

So, when you can't find the on ramp to the Information Superhighway or when cyberspace seems like outer space, just visit your local media retrieval-data base-information access-computer and CD Rom-resource center, or just drop in at the library. It feels just as good as it used to, but is designed to offer so much more! ▼

## *Place Magazine*

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# s k e t

**AIA** Michigan and the Michigan Architectural Foundation were very pleased to be among the sponsors of a fascinating and important conference. "New Days - New Ways" was the 1994 spring conference of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network and was presented as a team effort with the Cranbrook Educational Community.

The name of the conference and much of its content pay homage to the founder of the Cranbrook Academy of Art,

George Booth, whose vision as a patron of the arts has left Michigan a remarkable legacy in architecture. That legacy, however, nor the body of historic architecture in Michigan can be taken for granted. The overt and subtle threats which are leveled against historic buildings across the country are constant and an approach must be put in place to ensure the preservation of places like Cranbrook so that future generations may share in their

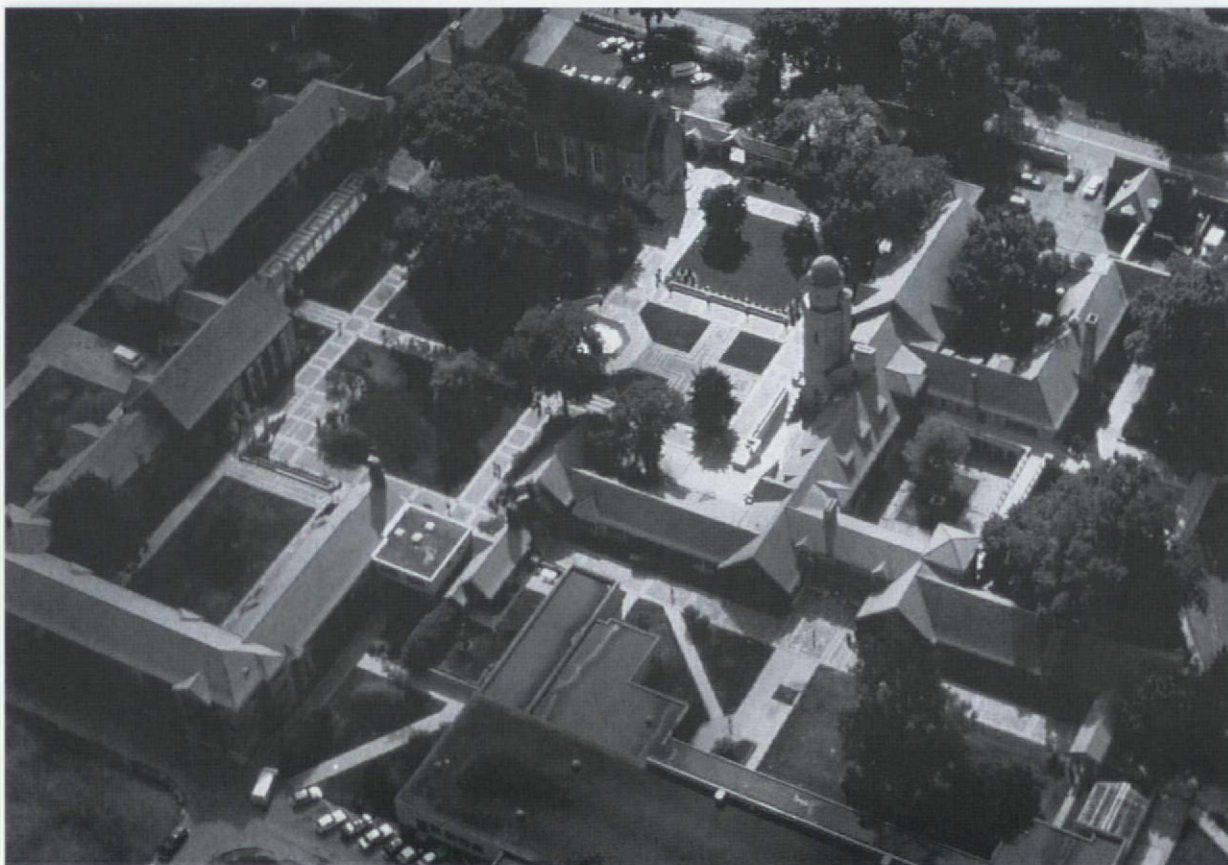
history. This conference was a call for partnership in preservation and planning in the hope that the quality and character of our communities will be improved.

The Eliel Saarinen-designed Cranbrook campus was the focus of tours, lectures and workshops, but not in isolation. A context was also created by additional lectures and workshops which focused on Columbus, Indiana and on the broader issues of urban planning and its embrace of

historic preservation.

The two days of the conference, Friday, May 6, and Saturday, May 7, had different faces. Friday focused on a series of presentations which explored the history of preservation at Cranbrook and beyond. Among the speakers were: John Hoogakker, vice president for facilities and operations at Cranbrook, who presented the results of a

Cranbrook aerial photograph



Photograph by: Balthazar Korab, Ltd.



# c h e s

By Dane Archer Johnson, AIA



Eliel Saarinen

For many years Hungerford was the assistant of J. Irwin Miller, the first to envision the design excellence which would shape Columbus, Indiana and who would, like George Booth, ask Eliel Saarinen to help craft his vision. Hungerford spoke about the progressive design efforts in Columbus, then and now.

The conference also welcomed Robert Keller, president of Detroit Renaissance, who made a presentation entitled "New Energy, New Opportunity." Mr. Keller

comes to Detroit from Baltimore where he was instrumental in the re-shaping of that city's waterfront and has a great interest in building bridges between city and suburb, along with building alliances between communities. He addressed the issue of whether these goals can be integrated with a plan of design excellence like that of Cranbrook and Columbus, and whether such a plan is attainable in 1990s Detroit. His presentation segued into a forum focusing on how organizations like Cranbrook and the Michigan Historic Preservation Network can serve as resources in realizing shared visions for Detroit and other Michigan communities.

Saturday was the more experiential day of the conference. Among the events scheduled were tours of the buildings at Cranbrook, including the magnificently restored Saarinen House along with grounds and garden tours. Workshops were conducted in landscape planning, creation of historic archives, and in the marketing of historic properties. Craft workshops were also conducted for interested attendees in the restoration of leaded glass, historic paint analysis and furniture restoration.

AND...

Another conference of great interest to architects in Michigan was held April 14-16, 1994 at the Canadian Center for Architecture in Montreal. Entitled "A Working Conference on Establishing Principals for the Appraisal and Selection of Architectural Records," the conference was sponsored by the J. Paul Getty Trust, and explored the issue of what records to maintain in long-standing architectural firms. The results of the conference were released to various organizations, so if you did not attend, look for the results in architectural journals. ▼

recently completed audit of the physical plant at Cranbrook, along with the steps being taken to restore and augment the buildings of the campus; David Evans, Ann Arbor-based architect, who made a presentation entitled "Preservation Planning and Partnership," and Mark Coir, archivist at Cranbrook, who explained the reasons behind the development of Cranbrook, the relationship between its architecture and the philosophy of its founder, and the influence of the Saarinens in a presentation entitled "The Architecture of an Evolving Community."

Also among the speakers on Friday was Owen Hungerford.



# It's Up To Us To Take Action Now

**W**ould you allow an unqualified, unlicensed surgeon to perform delicate brain surgery on a loved one? Would you start taking potentially dangerous medication without a doctor's diagnosis and supervision?

In effect, that's what is happening every day when unlicensed, unqualified people develop, design and build structures in Michigan without proper architectural participation and leadership.

There are architects—especially those who have just completed the five year degree, three year internship and 33.25 hour testing requirements—who believe that because Michigan has a fairly forthright and clear licensing law, they have a relatively secure position in a professional career.

It's simply not true. Michigan's law is not being enforced and our profession is not being effectively protected.

The architectural profession is being undermined every day, not only in Michigan but in every region, every state and every city where architects operate.

In the past year alone, Michigan has seen major

threats to the architectural profession, as well as the public's safety, committed by unqualified and unlicensed individuals practicing architecture.

Here are some examples of how our profession is being slowly picked apart, not only in Michigan but across the country. As we stand on the sidelines and watch, we are relinquishing more and more responsibilities to unqualified, unlicensed individuals and organizations:

*Building Design:* In Michigan there is a group pursuing the passage of a bill that would allow any person to design and engineer any size residential building. This group is also contemplating legislation that would allow them to design

and engineer any building-type of wood frame construction in Use Group Types Assembly, Business, Educational, Factory and Storage. The building site could be up to 160,650 square feet of gross floor area.

*Construction Management:* In Missouri, one trade association was helpful in having legislation passed in 1993 that allows construction managers to provide planning and design services as well as construction observation services—a responsibility currently requiring a licensed architect or engineer.

*Design-Build:* A Washington, DC-based trade group was formed in 1993 to influence state licensing laws in order to facilitate design-build delivery. One of their objectives is to have state licensing laws changed so that design-build firms would be exempt from current regulations that require a majority of firm principals to be licensed as an architect or engineer and/or retain a majority of the corporate stock.

*Interior Design:* Also in Michigan, interior designers are currently seeking licensing to practice architecture in the state. Under their proposed legislation, they would be permitted to design all elements of building interiors, with the exception of the mechanical, plumbing, electrical or structural systems, without a license to practice architecture. Their licensing standards are not nearly as stringent and demanding as an architect's.

Why are these groups having such success? One



reason is they have been more aggressive with their positions than architects have been. Architects need to get involved in politics and the legislative process to protect our profession. We also need to do a better job of communicating our value and worth to our clients, regulatory agencies and society in general.

Unlike doctors and attorneys, most of the general public will never have direct contact with an architect. Therefore, they will never clearly understand what it is we do, how we do it and why we are on the same professional level as medicine or law.

The service we provide as architects is very important and should only be provided by an architect. The architects in Michigan, and every other state, can turn the decline of our profession around, returning it to a respected and valued profession that it once was and should be.

The architectural profession is like a sleeping giant. If we as a profession do not wake up and take action, we will find we've been robbed of our duties and responsibilities. Those same duties and responsibilities are now being taken by others not truly competent or qualified to practice architecture.

Architects must reinforce the fact that our education, internship and testing make us the most highly qualified professionals in the built environment to protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

Architects must not be passive. Architects must get involved, stay involved and make a difference if this profession is to be saved. We hold our futures and fate in our own hands.

It is up to us to take action now! ▼

*Benedetto Tiseo, AIA*

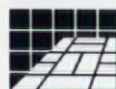
*\*\*For more information about how you can be more actively involved with protecting the architectural profession, please contact your local AIA chapter.*

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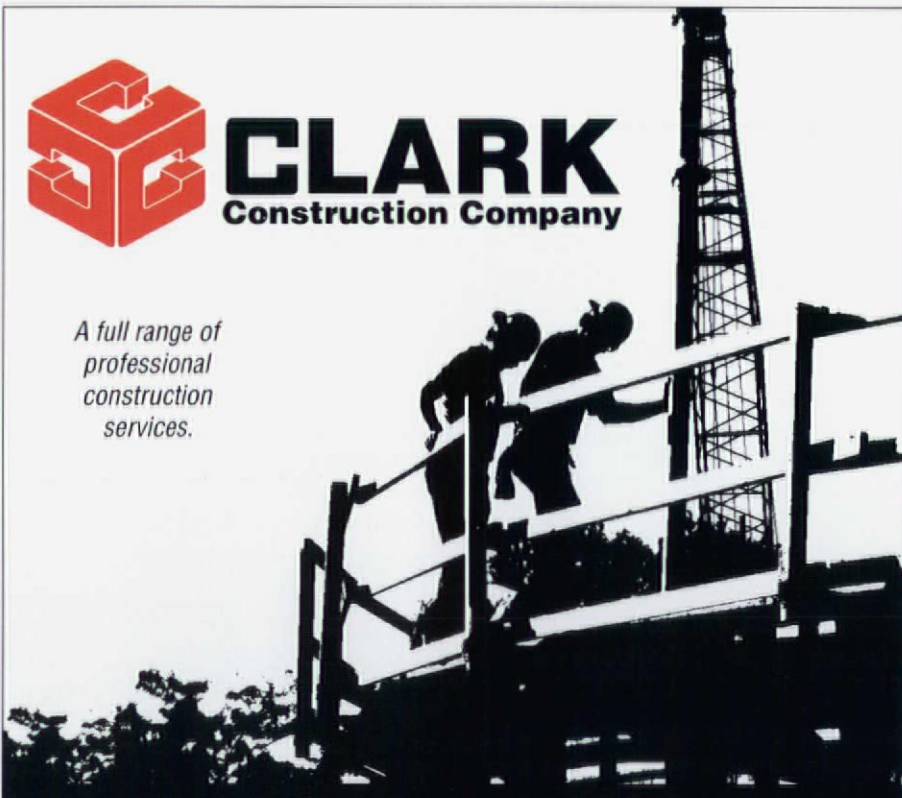
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# MUSEUM HOUSE

**M**useums are usually buildings which house historic artifacts. However, the Public Museum of Grand Rapids, an educational museum owned and operated by the citizens of Grand Rapids, challenged Architects Four, Inc. of Ann Arbor, to preserve the Voigt House itself as an artifact. This preservation firm conducted a three-phase environmental stabilization plan comprised of a preservation plan, restoration plan and long-

range artifact conservation plan. Funding for the \$450,000 project was provided by the National Endowment for the

Humanities, Michigan's Outstate Equity Program, the City of Grand Rapids capital improvement fund and the Grand Rapids Foundation.

Founded in 1854, the Museum maintains over 250,000 artifacts. As an institutional entity, it is composed of a number of facilities and program centers including: the main exhibit facility, a planetarium, a nature center, a prehistoric mound site, a collection research

center and a late nineteenth century historic property known as the Voigt House.

The Voigt House is operated as an historic home and research collection specific to the study of late 19th and early 20th century social, cultural and economic history. Built in 1895 and occupied by a single family until 1971, the Voigt House presents a very rich environment for interpreting life in the late Victorian period. All of the household goods, family clothing, personal mementos and family and business archives of this local milling company/dry goods entrepreneur, Carl Gustav Adolph Voigt, remain intact, preserved as an archaeological time capsule within the walls of their original setting.

The Preservation Plan detailed the deteriorated condition of the house and its carriage house, outlining an inventory of work required to repair and conserve the structures. To ensure preservation of the home's historic significance, restoration of the slate roof, copper gutters, cisterns and chimneys began in 1992 and was done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and

*The challenge was to  
preserve the Voigt House  
itself as an artifact*



## Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

Beginning April 1, 1992, the Voigt House curtailed its normal operations in preparation for a chimney and roof construction project identified as a critical first step toward both structural and environmental stabilization.

Restoration work on the two north chimneys and one south chimney began in May 1992 and was completed in August 1992. The masons were able to re-use approximately 95 percent of the original bricks. The architects applied a waterproof stain to the small segment of replacement bricks early the following spring and have successfully integrated the new bricks into the overall look of the reconstructed chimneys.

The slate roof and gutters were stabilized and reconstructed, from July 1992 to September 1992. Approximately 30 percent of the original slate could be re-used and all of the metal ridge guards that cover the slate roof joints or peaks had to be replaced. This was successfully implemented by not mixing new slate with the old slate. Instead, all of the old slate was installed on two of the least visible slopes of the roof. The new slate was matched very carefully with the old to visually integrate the new tiles with the old. Unfortunately, water was apparently still entering from the pressed metal dormer ornaments. The ornament leakage was masked by the more obvious flashing and valley deterioration.

Weekly meetings between the architect, museum staff and contractor enabled this detailed work to move forward to its successful completion in December 1993. The work was delayed because it had been determined that the ornamental sheet metal was coated with lead-based paint. The contractor had to submit a hazardous materials abatement work plan to the City Engineer's Office for review and approval before the work could begin.

After months of concentrated analysis, collaboration with Museum staff and the orchestration of numerous contractors, the



The Victorian splendor of the Voigt House after its conservation as an historic "artifact."

architects received an unusual and appropriate compliment for their work. The director of the Museum, Timothy Chester, brought Ms. Maud Margaret Lyon, the director of the Detroit Historical Museum, to the Voigt House to show her the recently completed exterior stabilization. As she approached the front door of the House, she said, "The House looks the same. If you hadn't told me about your project, I probably would not have known that you had undertaken such an extensive restoration project." It was intended as the highest compliment, attesting to the high caliber of the work that had taken place. The architects had succeeded in this unusual conservation project, preserving the building as an historical artifact. ▼

Project: The Public Museum of Grand Rapids

Location: Grand Rapids, Michigan

Architect: Architects Four, Inc.

Photography: Top, Public Museum of Grand Rapids  
Bottom, Architects Four, Inc.

The lead paint encrusted dormers were restored to their original color using environmentally safe paints.





Exterior use of brick with limestone base is detailed to accentuate the unique colonial period and style.



# SOLID CITIZEN

In a community where the values and buildings are traditional, the construction of a new library is a municipal event of considerable importance. After all, libraries, banks and city halls represent community values as much as they demonstrate local architecture. The context, therefore, for Robert Lee Wold and Associates when commissioned to design the new Grandville Public Library was one to be approached carefully and respectfully.

It began with a master plan study of the

municipal center. A new library was needed to accommodate the predictable growth for the next 20 years and the owner's desire was

for a structure reflecting traditional community values. It should be convenient, inviting and friendly to users and respond to the growing needs for state-of-the-art library services.

Prominently situated on the border between a well established residential area and the business district, the new library is at once a linkage and a buffer. Existing pedestrian and vehicular patterns were redeveloped to create a partially covered outdoor amphitheater which also functions as a public plaza. This space is intended to extend the entry ways to the library in the direction of both business and residential districts, which also set the stage for community gatherings and outdoor events.

The building solidly establishes itself as traditional civic architecture. Use of brick arches, limestone accents and classical detailing lend style and substance to the human scale of the project. The masonry expression makes for a durable facility imbued with tradition and beauty.

Inside, the central spine is warmed by natural light from the skylights and by traditional detailing.

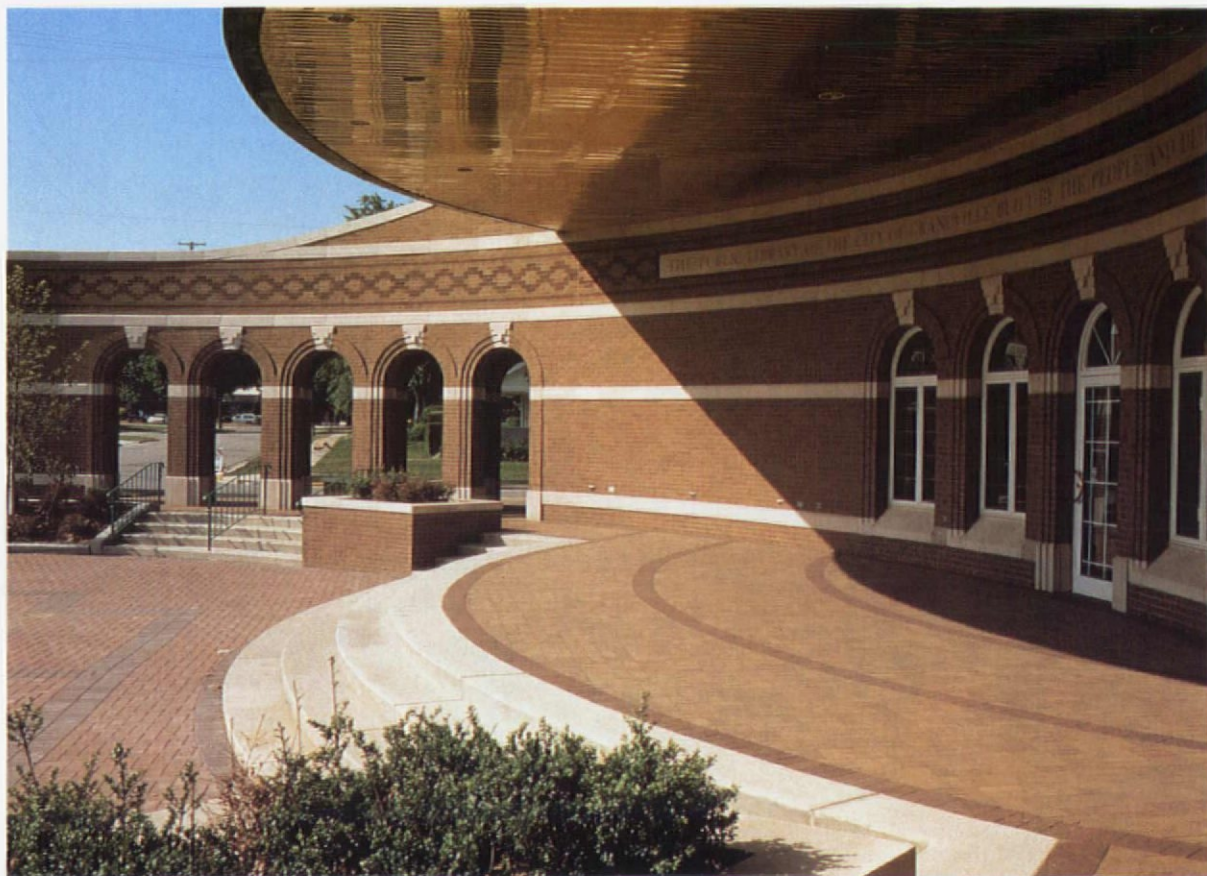
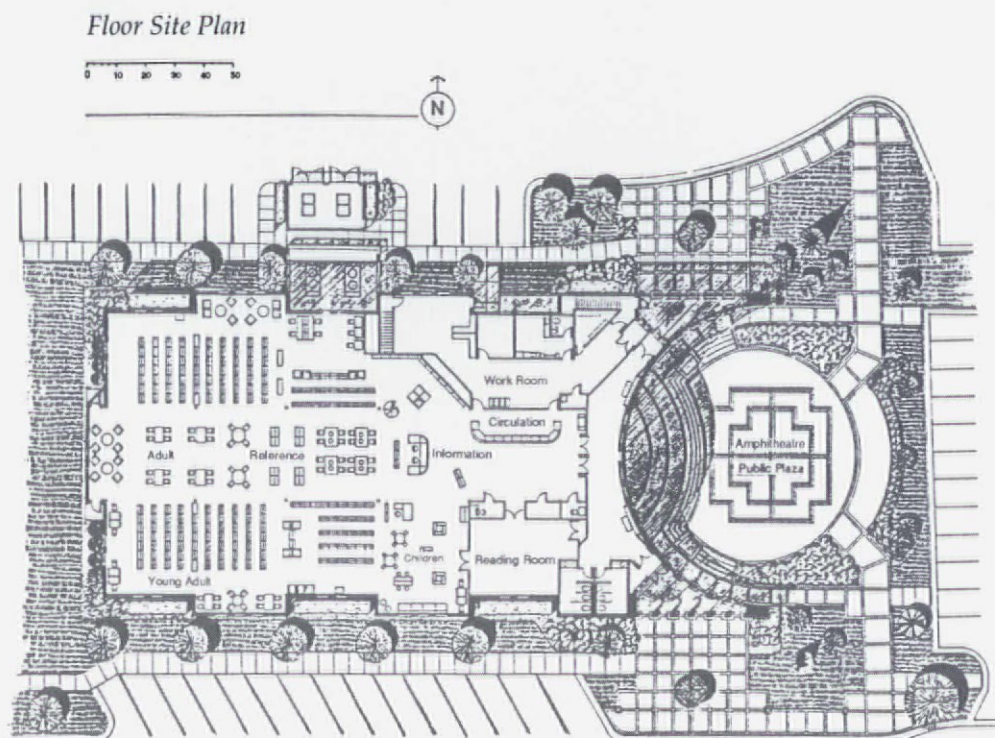




Although traditional in appearances, this 22,000-square-foot facility incorporates the latest technology in library services with internal flexibility for growth and development. The semicircular entry vestibule which overlooks the outdoor public plaza flows easily into a central skylit spine featuring reading, reference, information areas and the circulation counter. Spaces which are located along the central spine are devoted to staff offices and book stacks. At the perimeter and isolated from the main area by the stacks are smaller reading areas where large arched windows provide daylight through the undulating exterior wall.

Friendly yet solid, residential yet civic, traditional yet technological, the Grandville Library fulfills its promises to all

continues



Brick pavers and colonnade archway detailing featuring limestone keystones are used at the plaza area to enhance the style and scale of the exterior expression.



Limestone panels inscribed with the library signage announce the entry arcades.



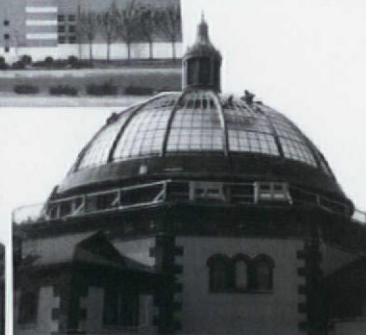
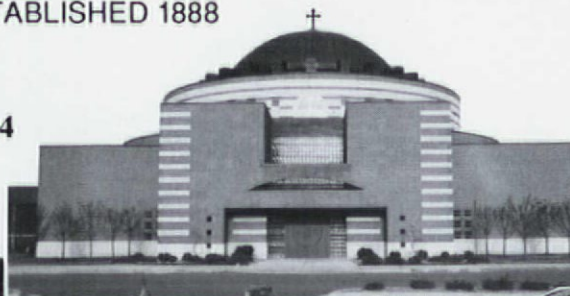
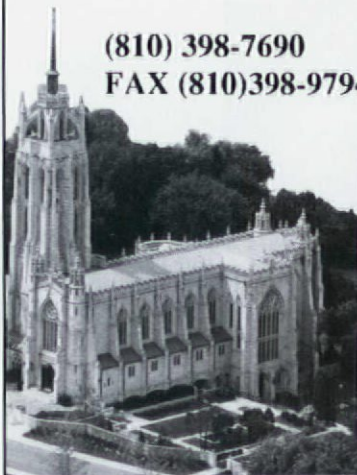
constituents. This facility steps forward as transitional architecture to address community needs for decades to come. Citizens and architects alike can be proud that a new tradition has been established and that the older tradition has been respected. ▼

Project: Grandville Public Library  
Location: Grandville, Michigan  
Architect: Robert Lee Wold & Associates, Inc.  
Interior and Landscape Design: Hadersbeck & Associates  
Electrical/Mechanical Engineers: The Engineering Group  
Structural Engineer: Engineering, Inc.  
General Contractor: Lamar Construction Co.  
Photography: Robert Lee Wold & Associates, Inc.

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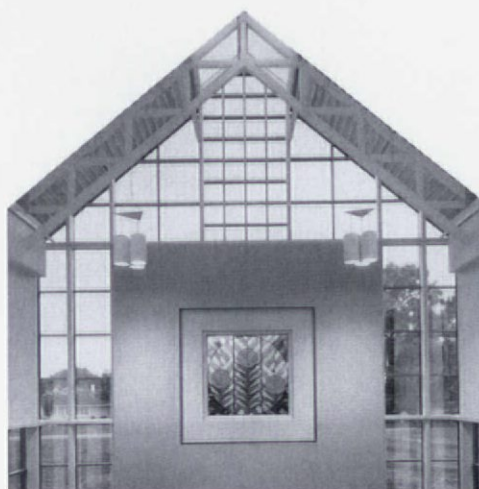
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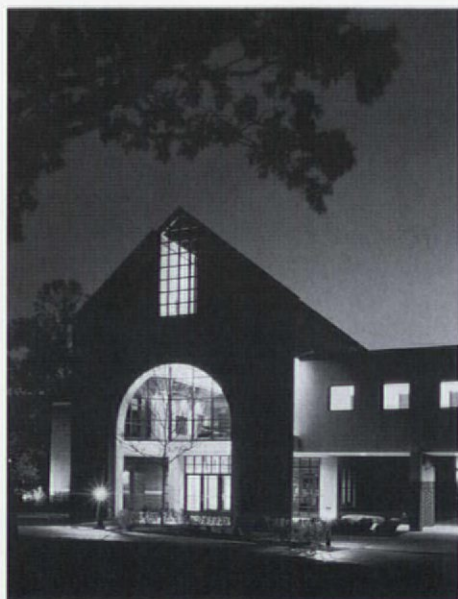
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# AN ABUNDANT HARVEST

Light reflects off limestone panels and spills through the entry arch from the library lobby.



**T**rinity Christian College's library, like the college itself, started out small. In 1959 when the campus was beginning to evolve from golf club to college, there were only two buildings: the former club house and the pro shop, or the "big building" and the "small building." The library began in the "big building" with a shelf full of books at the back of a classroom. Lorraine Bossenga, Trinity's first part-time librarian, began the task of developing an academic library in that small space.

At the very heart of the academic complex, the new Trinity Christian College Library is a campus focal point. As the first of three major buildings under the master plan, the library sets the architectural

direction of the new chapel and science buildings to follow. This new library building is a building whose design carries continuity with the past forward toward a vision of the future for the college.

The building finds its form in the traditional basilica. An ancient form with deep roots in early Christianity, the basilica is a most appropriate antecedent for a library. The exterior very directly expresses the hierarchy of functions within: a large central space surrounded by smaller support areas. This clarity of organization from within and without is what sets this building apart and allows it to become extraordinary.

The scale created by the building and its siting is very appropriate both to the campus and to its residential neighbors.

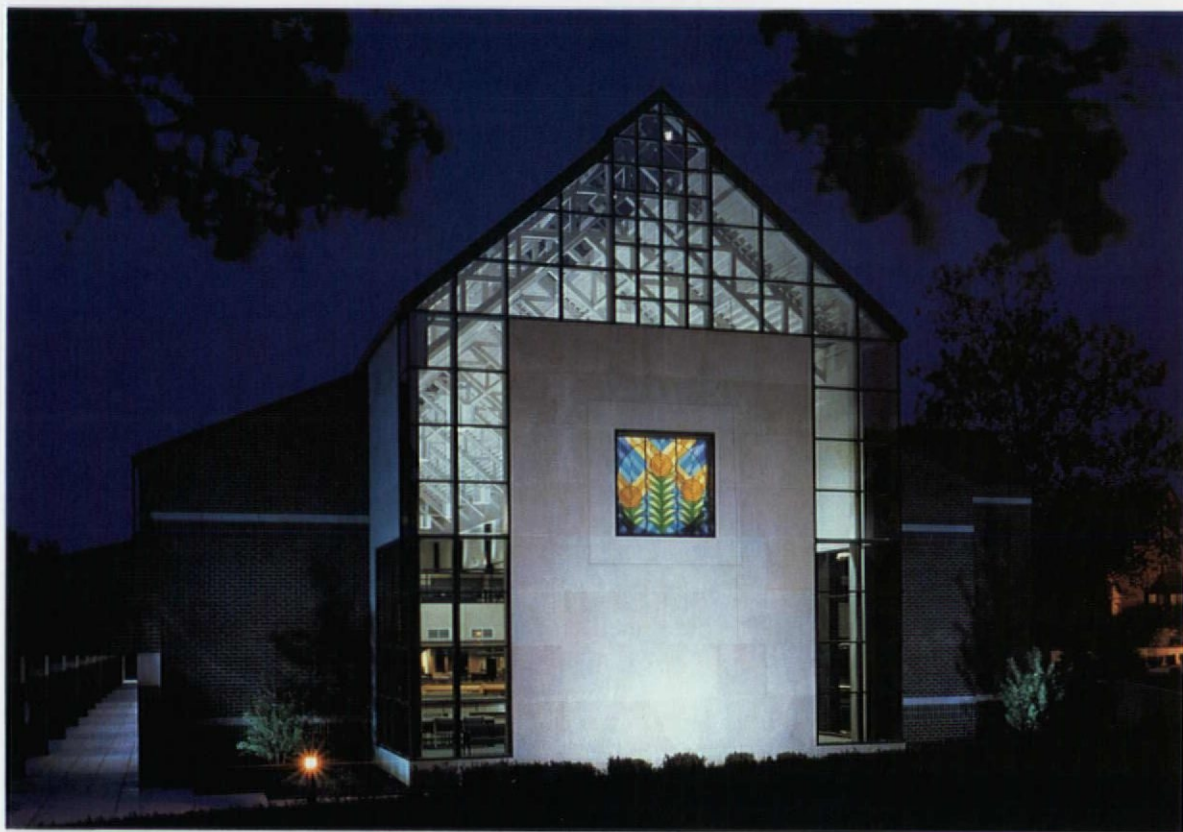
Realizing that this is the largest academic structure on campus, and that its function is symbolically important, its form is at once monumental and friendly. By careful placement in relation to the land-form and neighboring buildings, a sense of fit and belonging is achieved.

*continues*



A stained glass window glows at night from the two-story study lounge at the west end of the reading room. The window was designed upon the verse: "But the seed which fell on good soil brought forth an abundant harvest."

The east facing entry elevation is dominated by a large arch which has become an image for the college.



The building's roof-slopes and gable-ends echo the existing and planned campus buildings. The eastern arch repeats an entry theme emerging on the new dormitories, while the shallower slopes of the lower roofs repeat those of the existing academic buildings.

The exterior materials are the same as those found in a number of other campus facades: brick and stone. Their colors follow the palette of colors already established by the administration building and new dormitories. While every structure on campus will not use

every color from the established palette, campus harmony is achieved by variety within an established range.

The floor area of approximately 33,000 square feet includes not only a two-story library/classroom but also an enclosed link to the existing classroom building and a covered arcade/walkway to the future science building. Its size and plan form allow present needs to be met while providing for future growth. The initial collection of 56,000 volumes can expand to 120,000 without additions. This occurs through internal expansion into areas initially occupied by audio-visual and administrative functions.

The organization of the library is simple. It combines a traditional form with state-of-the-art library facilities. From the two-story entry and lobby, one moves past the circulation and reference desks into the library itself. Extending from the entry space is a meeting room with a catering kitchen. To the other side, behind the circulation desk, is the technical services area. As the true functional center of the library, these spaces, by their size and arrangement, provide needed area for the library staff and operations. Extending from the central space are seminar, group study and viewing/listening rooms.



The main reading space is, in turn, the heart of the library for students, faculty and visitors. This large open area is punctuated by lightwells which open to the skylit second floor. Though only comprising one sixth of the ground floor area, these vertical openings create a magnificent library space. From the roof peak above, controlled daylight filters down, illuminating and unifying the entire reading room. At the same time that the space is open, acoustic ceiling and floor materials provide adequate sound absorption to ensure that the atmosphere is hushed. The main reading room and stacks are truly grand library spaces in the tradition of scholastic excellence.

On the second floor, the Dutch Heritage Center is the focus of the south side of the building. The east end of the second floor is initially planned as college administrative offices, however, it will eventually be occupied by the library's expansion.

The library is very much in the tradition of Trinity Christian College. As the first of the new academic buildings, it is an exciting step toward the future: a step founded securely on the solid heritage of the past. ▼

Project: Trinity Christian College Library  
 Location: Palos Heights, Illinois  
 Architect: Progressive Architecture Engineering Planning  
 Structural Engineer: J.D.H. Engineering, Inc.  
 General Contractor: Westra Construction  
 Photography: Jon Miller, Heidrich Blessing Photographers

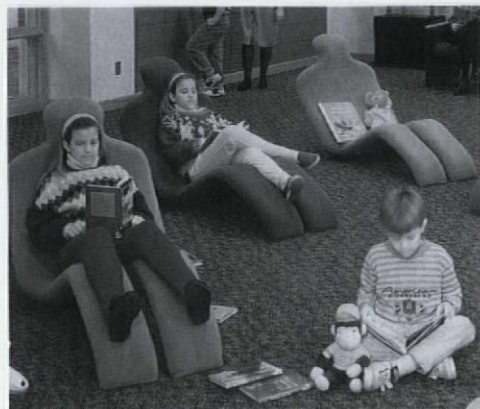


The main reading space is the heart of the library and is punctuated by lightwells that open to the skylit second floor.

The reading room culminates in a two-story study lounge.







# FUTURE REFERENCE

**W**ebster's Dictionary defines a library as: "An apartment or a building devoted to a collection of books, manuscripts, kept for use but not for sale; also an institution for the custody, circulation or administration of such a collection." This in turn gives insight into the dramatic transformation that libraries are currently

experiencing. No longer are these facilities warehouses for printed material, but are information distribution centers. Ideas are now being communicated

*New libraries need flexibility to undermine the sense of place found in older libraries.*

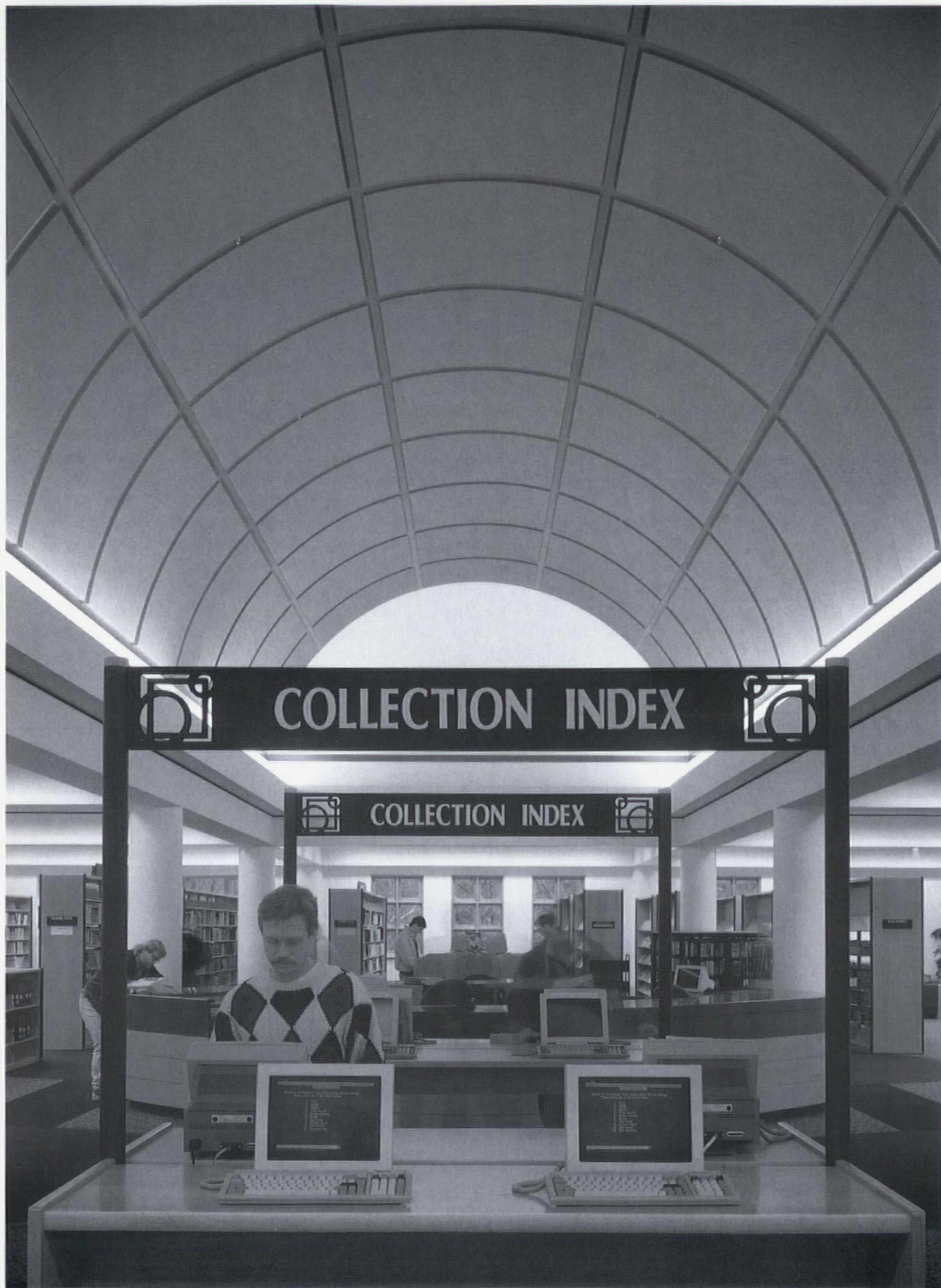
through printed materials, audio and visual electronic sources and interaction between people. This diversity of functions and the need for flexibility are what have changed today's libraries. No longer are they just a civic statement or a home for printed collections, the role of the library has expanded and they now function as a community center, public meeting facility, music and video store and a center of changing information formats.

The Rochester Hills Public Library is located at the northeast corner of downtown Rochester, bordered to the north and east by Paint Creek and established neighborhoods. The city and surrounding neighborhoods were originally developed because of the mills that utilized Paint Creek and the Clinton River and, in fact, the selected site was the original mill pond which was actually submerged until the forties. It is this past history and expectations for the future that influenced the building's concept: to have a sense of both past and future.

Libraries now need the flexibility to rearrange collections and reading areas and to replace them with electronic media retrieval systems without building modifications. This need for flexibility has the potential to undermine the sense of place found in older libraries. To address this concern, a twenty-five-foot module was conceptualized and articulated as a cell of space. This allowed for open expanses of flexible space that can provide the variety of space so critical to patron use. This module then became the organizer for

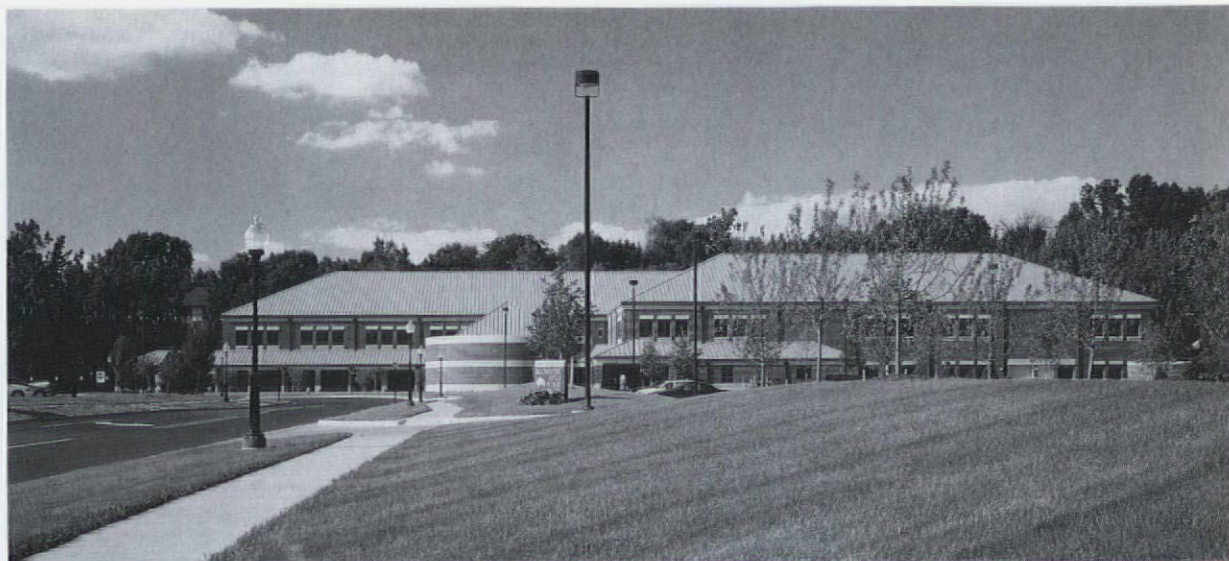
continues







The rotunda form of the community meeting room anchors the flanking entry facades.



The exterior expression gives the building a sense of the past.

Two entries converge on the circulation desk facilitating control and patron flow.



the mechanical, electrical and structural systems within the building.

The site, too, was instrumental in the organization of the plan. Along Paint Creek, a portion of the city's recreational walkway system was planned. The building responds to this by creating an exterior courtyard at the river bend, defined by the building to the south and landforms and woods to the north and east. The intent

was to create a destination point for users of the walkway. The exterior character of the building changes here to acknowledge this. Internally the court acts as a focal point around which reading and staff areas are organized. The configuration of the site also necessitated splitting the parking between two locations, creating the need for dual entrances into the building. Two entries converge at the security lobby which protects the collection and is the front door to the library. Upper floor access is by the main stair which provides a view of the courtyard below and leads to the vaulted ceiling reference area which functions as the orientation point for the upper floor.

Community meeting space is handled at the lower floor. The security lobby can be closed, protecting the collection, and still allowing access to the multi-purpose room, toilet rooms and kitchen. This makes meeting space available to the public independent of library hours.

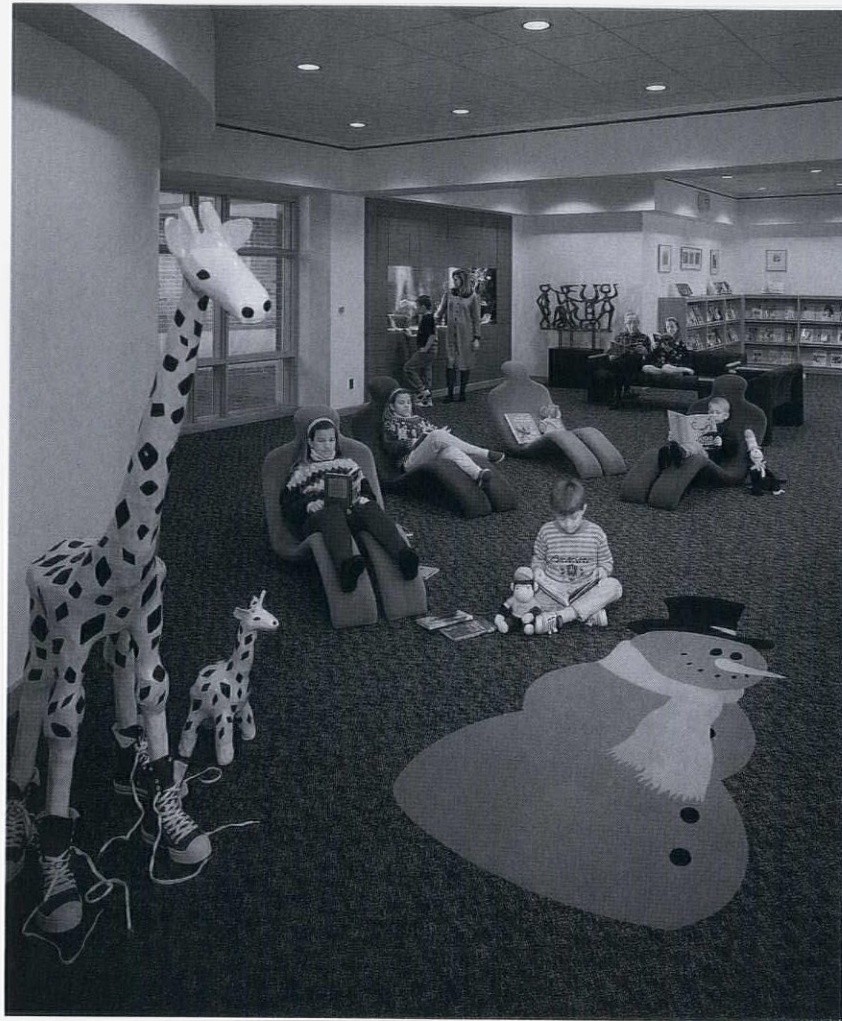
Entrances are easily supervised by the staff and the information and circulation desks have visual control over the entrance to the children's collection. The reference desk supervises the center of the building, with clear sight lines into the young adult alcove.

Technology and the ability of the building to adapt is another key design issue. The lower floor has a network of power and data raceways below the concrete slab, the locations of which were determined by the planning module. Ceiling plenums contain cable trays for poke through to the upper floor and wall surfaces were made



accessible. The collection areas are designed so that the stacks can be removed and replaced with electronic devices without costly modifications. This infrastructure extends to the lobby and the circulation desk to facilitate self checkout of materials in the future.

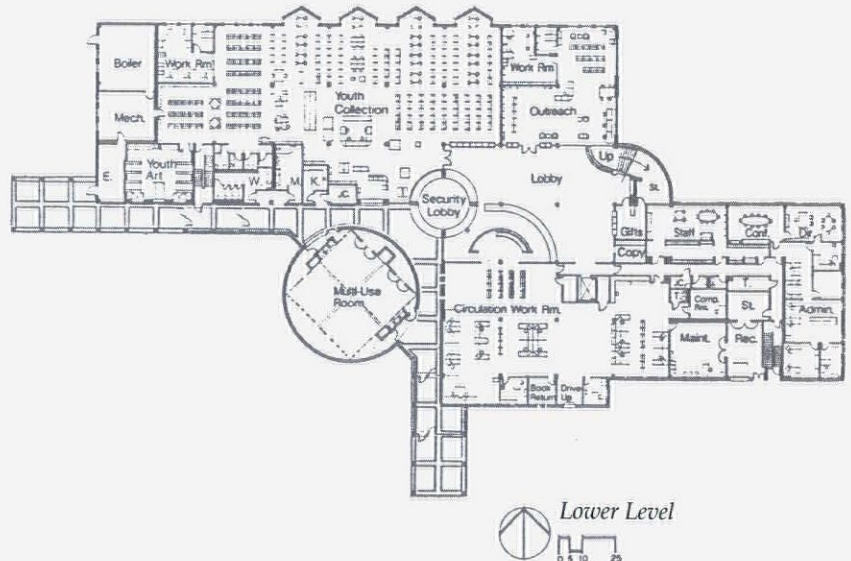
The exterior expression gives the building a sense of past. Materials and characteristics found in older buildings and the desired stability and civic qualities of older libraries were explored through the use of materials and by expressing the thickness of the exterior skin. This approach invokes a sense of permanence sought by the community for its new facility. The metal roof provided an opportunity to make the building identifiable from downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.



Playful furniture forms and colors help tickle the kid's reading fancy.

The interior development uses color and graphic patterns creatively to support the design concepts of past and future. At the entrance into the children's collection there is a removable carpet insert that is changed regularly which becomes a welcome mat that the children look forward to seeing. The vaulted ceiling was used as a recall to the traditional reading room with its coffered ceilings. The vault consists of fabric wrapped panels in an extruded aluminum suspension system. Paneled walls, millwork, window walls, doors and frames are implemented in wood for warmth.

The Rochester Hills Library presented a challenge to design a library for today which is rooted in the past while looking to the future. Only the cooperation of an inspired library board and staff, a talented construction company, a creative group of architects and engineers, and a supportive city government could bring the kind of success enjoyed by this new facility. This team sought to give Webster a new definition of libraries: "A built environment that functions as an information distribution and interaction center, capable of responding to community needs." ▼



Project: Rochester Hills Public Library  
 Location: Rochester, Michigan  
 Architect: TMP Associates, Inc.  
 Landscape Architect: Peter Walker, William Johnson & Partners  
 Electrical & Mechanical Engineer: Edelstein Associates  
 Construction Manager: Frank Rewold & Son, Inc.  
 Photography: Balthazar Korab Ltd.



# l a n d m a r k s

By Balthazar Korab

## The Birth of an Idea.

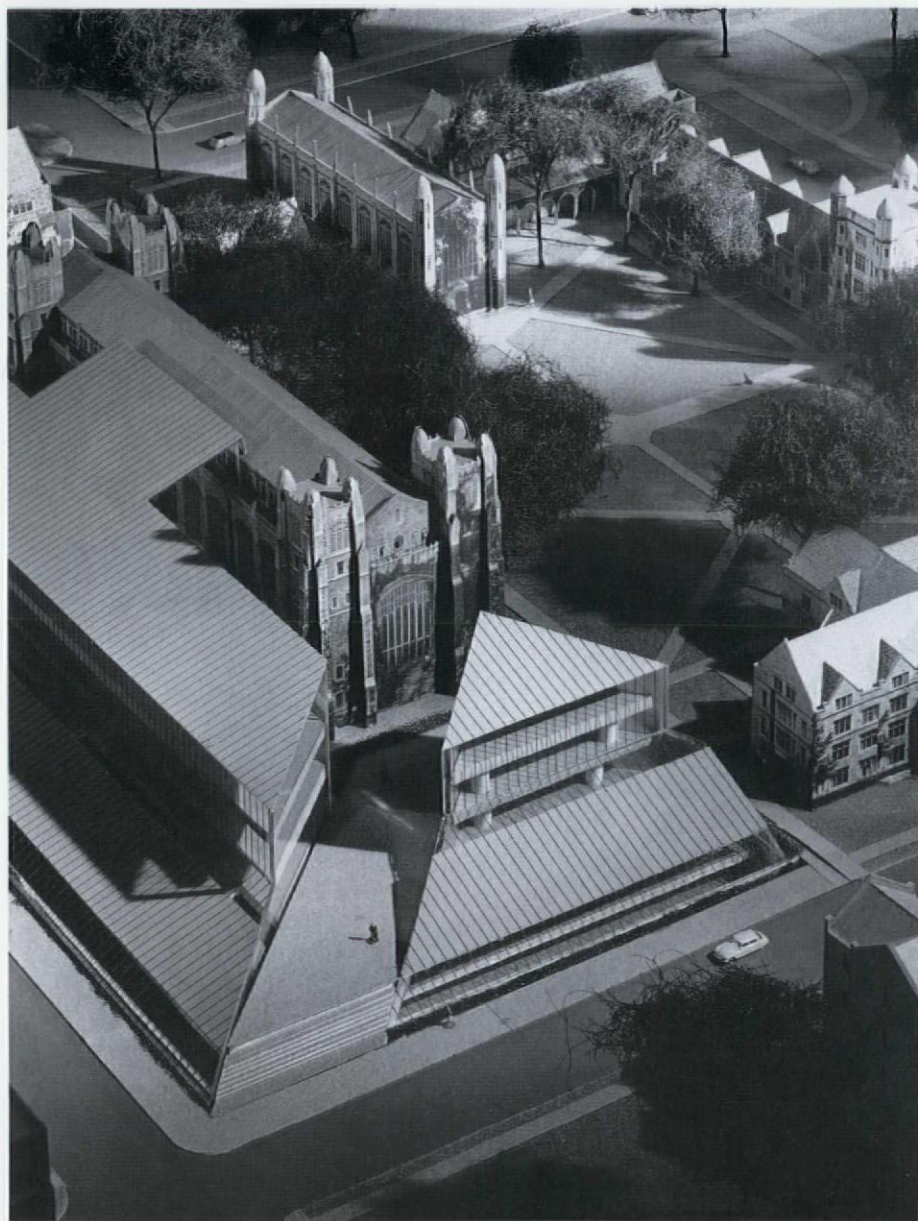


Figure #1

In 1974 Gunnar Birkerts, AIA completed a study on subterranean urban systems.

When a perfectly valid scheme for the extension of the Law Library of the University of Michigan (figure #1) was turned down, Birkerts proposed a solution not altogether unfamiliar to him: he put it underground (figure #2).

The success of the realization netted him two commissions which he answered with similar solutions. Both the Cornell University Library extension (1982) and that of the University of Southern California, San Diego (1992) were solved with an underground scheme displaying a commandable self restraint.

Gunnar Birkerts also presented an underground plan for the expansion of the Michigan State Capitol in 1987.

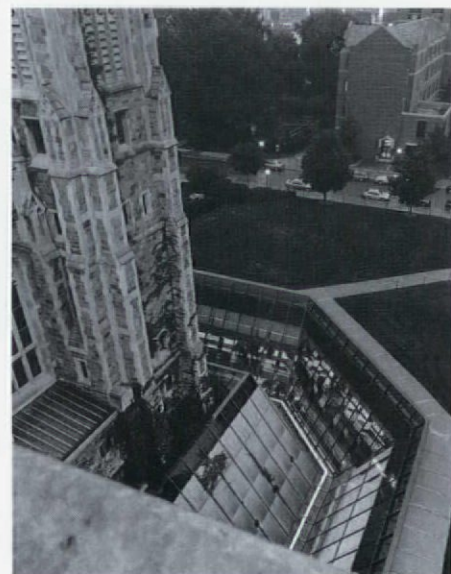


Figure #2

Photo: Gary Quesada/Korab Ltd.



# ARCHITECTURE / EVENTS



Visitors to the Great Lakes Region in the first decade of the 21st century will be greeted by vastly expanded and modernized air transport facilities when they arrive via the Detroit-Wayne County Metropolitan Airport.

To view what high-school students of 1994 believe will serve the needs of air travelers in the next century, stop by the existing International Terminal and visit the display of winning entries in the recent 27th Annual Michigan Architectural Foundation High-School Design Competition. This year's competition, with sponsorship of Lawrence Technological University, Detroit Edison Company and the Wayne County Executive's Office, offered student designers the opportunity to develop and express graphically the themes, amenities and structures they felt would best welcome international visitors to the State of Michigan.

The results are impressive and a reinforcement of our belief in the abilities of our young people and their teachers. It will be interesting to compare the student dreams with the project's reality as it unfolds in the next few years.

James B. Shane, AIA  
President  
Michigan Architectural Foundation

## JUNE

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

4 AIA SOUTHWEST, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts Art Fair:  
Western Michigan AIA 1994 Awards on display.  
27 - July 30 AIA MICHIGAN, Honor Awards Exhibit,  
Livonia Arts Commission - Livonia Civic Library Art Gallery.

## JULY

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31						

20-23 AIA HURON VALLEY, "Chalk The Park", Liberty  
Plaza, Ann Arbor.

## AUGUST

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28	29	30	31			

4, 5, 6, 7 AIA MICHIGAN, Midsummer Conference,  
celebrating 51 years at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island.  
MAF silent auction.

## Up-coming Fall Events

### LATE SUMMER/ EARLY FALL SEPTEMBER

AIA NORTHERN MICHIGAN, Motor Coach Tour: Old  
Mission Peninsula and Leelanau County Wineries.  
AIA DETROIT, Annual Homes Tour.  
10 AIA MICHIGAN, Design Retreat.

### OCTOBER

1 AIA MICHIGAN, Honor Awards and Recognitions (Ann  
Arbor)  
2 AIA HURON VALLEY, Architect Designed Homes Tour.  
24, 25 MAF, Educational Facilities Planning Seminar.

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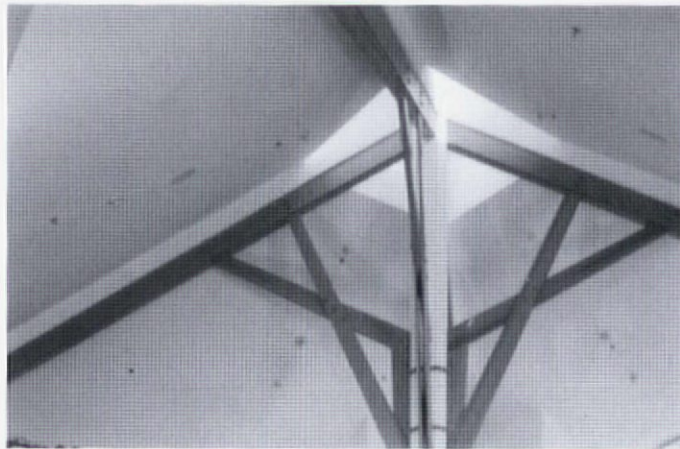


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# c o n t e n t s



## WINTER 1995

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Landmarks  
New Home for the Ultimate Health Care Center

## About the Cover

The award winning Lansing Ophthalmology Regional Eye Care Facility  
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Photography by Brad Granzou.



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# Healthy Debate

**S**ome years ago, I read of a study of employee satisfaction with their working environment. Initially workers responded negatively to their rather ordinary workplace which had not been given any attention for many years. Improvements to the space were made, such as lighting, furniture and finish upgrades, and the survey was conducted again. Morale and job satisfaction rose significantly. But when some of the workplace improvements were removed and the survey conducted a third time, morale and job satisfaction rose again. This phenomenon was explained in simple terms. While the workplace upgrade was appreciated, it was the attention paid to the people and their problems which had the biggest effect.

Can this theory be translated into a discussion of health care reform? Consider for a moment the attention paid to the health care industry over the past two years. The harsh glare of the media spotlight has pried into every crack in the health care machine. Consider next the changes which have occurred recently in the system; mergers, acquisitions and alliances have been formed, and plans, reorganizations and ideas

have been developed. Is the threat of forced change enough to ignite voluntary self-examination, and thereby change?

Some will say that the seeds of the current trends in health care construction were planted years ago; and that the last two years of debate have merely functioned as fertilizer for an already fertile crop. Others will argue that the debate forced providers to reinvent themselves, their service delivery and their facilities. The effect has been a strong trend toward primary care facilities that are patient focused and community based.

We present four projects in this issue of PLACE which have grown out of this trend toward primary care facilities. All have attempted to respond to the changing landscape of medical facility design. These buildings are inviting, welcoming places which seek to break through the old clinical demeanor put forth by so many of our older health care facilities. They are designed with the patient's needs in mind and the community's spirit at heart.

So, whether the change is by evolution or revolution, the effect has been positive on the design of current health care facilities. Let the debate continue. ▼

## Place Magazine Editorial Schedule 1995

Editorial Materials Must Be  
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**Spring '95**      **May 1, 1995**  
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**Summer '95**      **June 9, 1995**  
Places to Live  
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**Fall '95**      **Sept. 8, 1995**  
Places to Worship  
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For editorial consideration, materials must be received at AIA Michigan, 553 East Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48226, by the above dates.

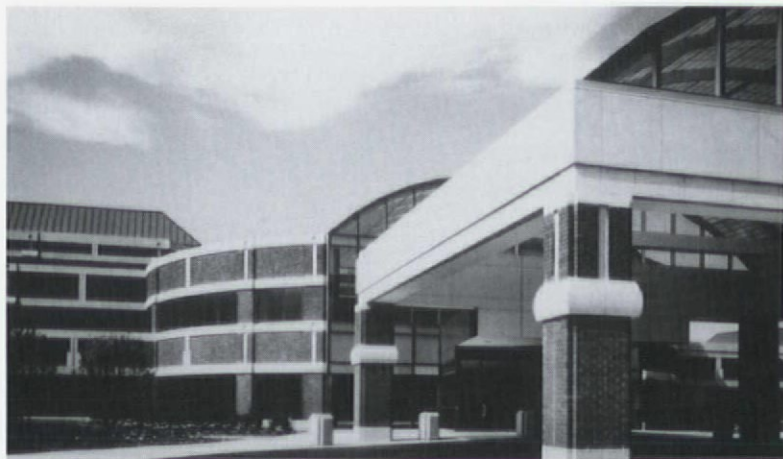
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# HEALING ARCHITECTURE

**W**hen Milwaukee-based Aurora Health Care, Inc. selected Kenosha, Wisconsin as the site for its first free-standing ambulatory care center, the community was ready for the arrival. Since 1990, the area had added thousands of manufacturing jobs and hundreds of homes had been built. The overall population was expected to grow significantly by 1998, yet a shortage of specialists in the areas of internal medicine, family practice and obstetrics was a problem. To make matters worse, many local companies were dissatisfied with the cost of health care, largely attributable to the dependence upon high-cost inpatient care providers.

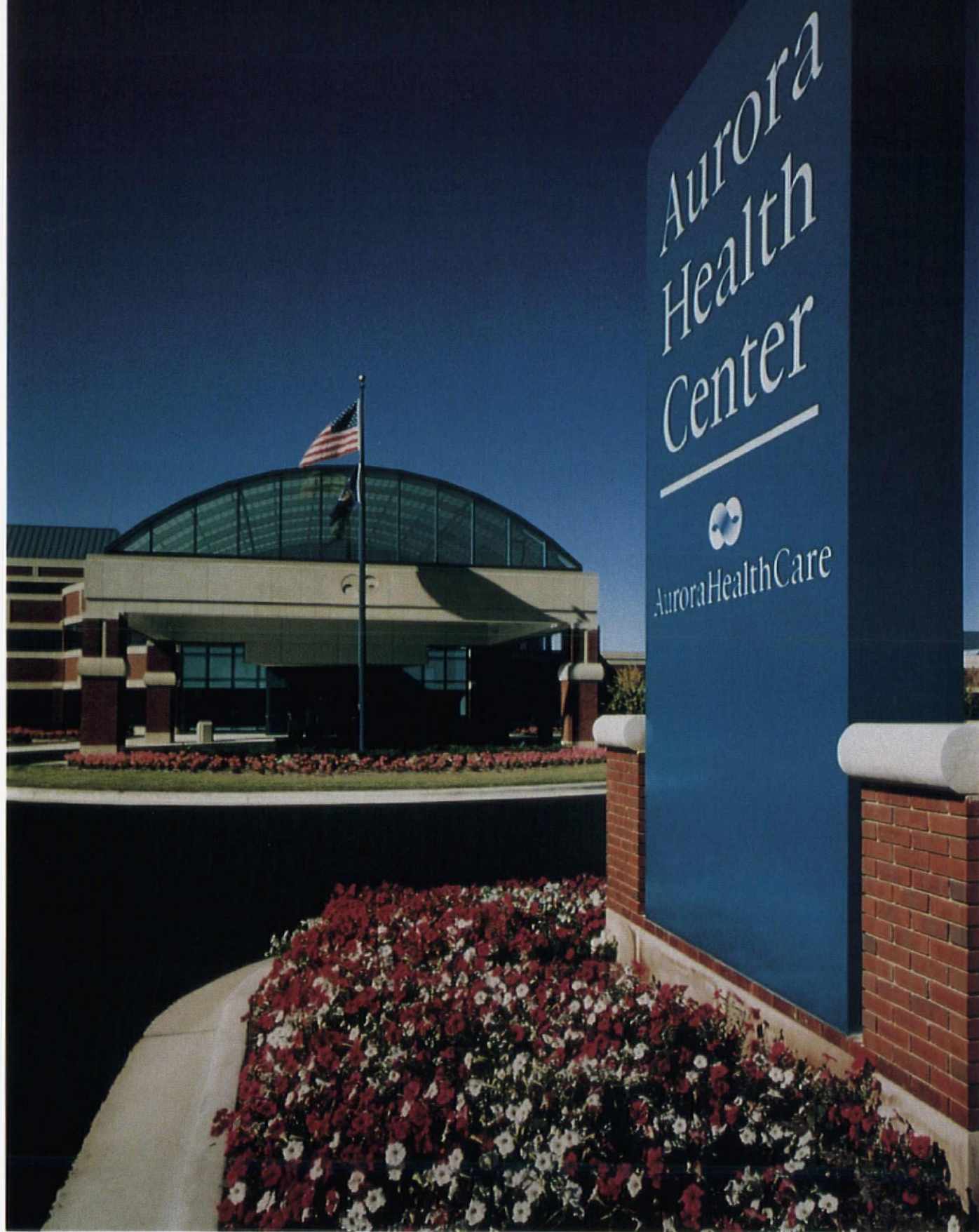
Aurora selected Albert Kahn Associates, Inc. as the architect-engineer, and a challenge was made: to create a prototype facility design that could be modified to fit sites of varying size and shape and constructed in a modular basis. In response, what Albert Kahn designers brought forth was a design that placed the facility's two major components—a medical office and ambulatory care center—on opposite sides of a lobby “hinge”. For future ambulatory care centers, the two areas could be constructed in different orientations to the lobby, thus allowing the basic design to be modified to fit infinitely different parcels of land. **continues**



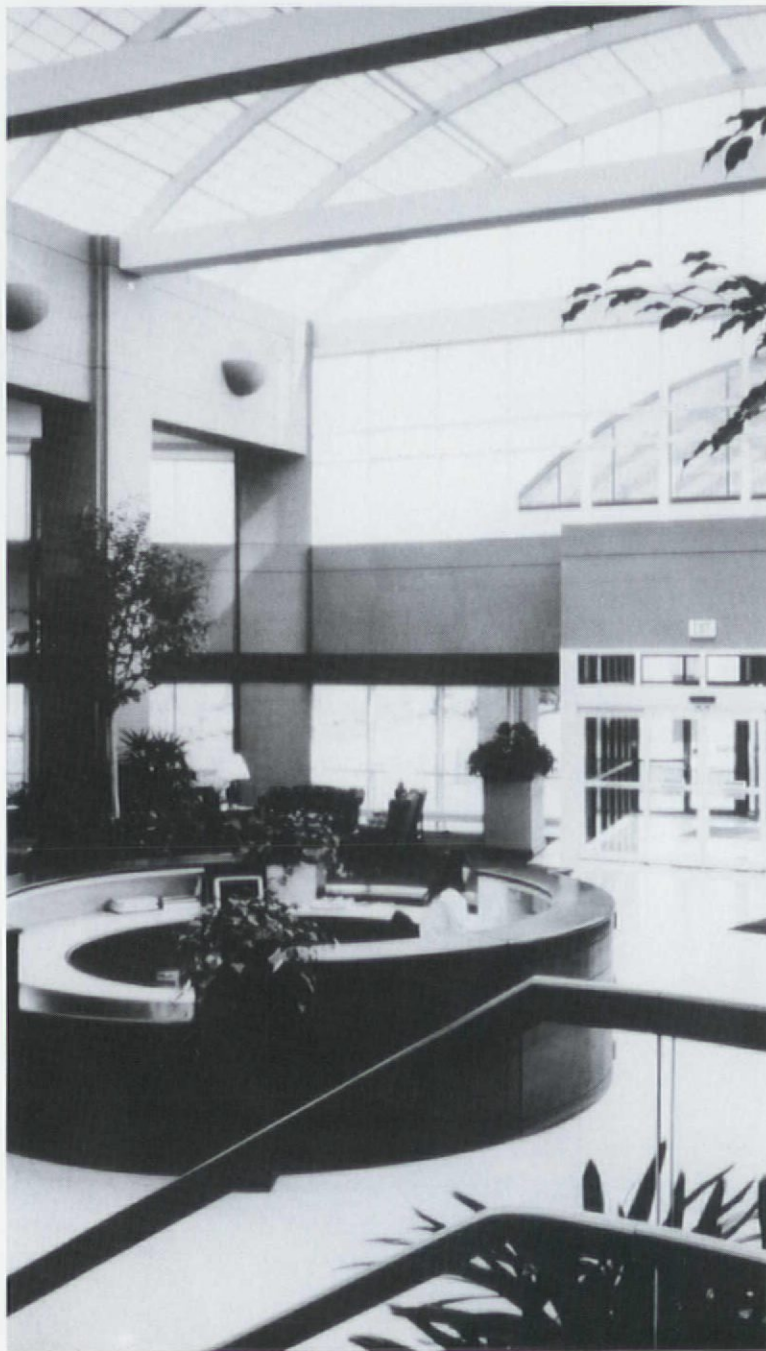
The exterior features traditional red brick and cast stone trim, along with green-tinted glass for a timeless architecture.



The architecture developed projects a healing image  
of simplicity and long-lasting grace.







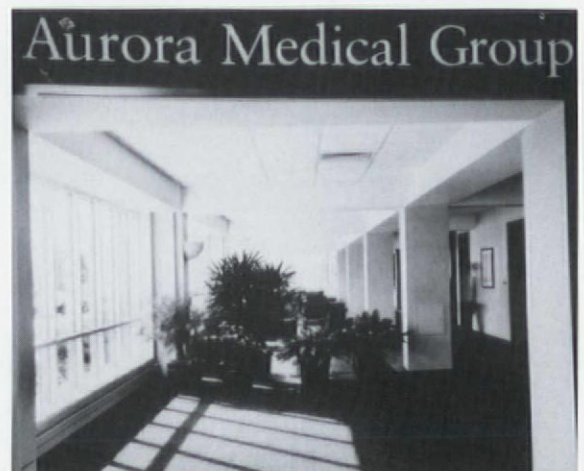
A circular, sky-lit lobby joins the ambulatory diagnostic and treatment center to the medical office building and will act as a "hinge" for the design of future centers.

**T**he prototype design solution for Aurora Health Center features "one-stop care" with a focus on primary physician services. The facility is composed of a three-story, 90,000-square-foot medical office building, which was designed after careful analysis of each component and system. The prototype design features physician suites finished to suit those in private practice, and is configured to allow physicians the ability to expand their suites with minimal renovation.

Joined to the medical office building by a spacious, sky-lit lobby is a single-story, 55,000-square-foot ambulatory diagnostic and treatment center. It provides extensive medical tests and procedures for those patients who require such care. The wing also features an ambulatory surgery center with a capacity to treat over 4,000 patients per year for ambulatory surgery, laser procedures, endoscopic procedures, and laparoscopic procedures. Diagnostic and treatment services include provisions for a future MRI unit, a CT scanner, nuclear medicine procedures, ultrasound, mammography, laboratory, general radiology, fluoroscopy, cardiology testing, pulmonary testing and neurodiagnostics.

The Aurora Health Center is a progressive user of mobile technology services. The facility was designed with two docking ports to accommodate high-tech medical equipment, such as a mobile MRI trailer unit or a mobile cardiac catheterization lab. The mobile units can be moved from one ambulatory center to another, allowing shared use of high-cost technology. Patients can be transported from interior holding rooms into mobile trailers and back—without being aware they have left the building—thanks to docking ports that create a tight seal between the building and trailer units.

Every step was taken to design a comfortable healing environment. A warm and supportive interior features ample natural light throughout all major corridors.







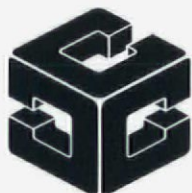
The patient canopy provides comfort and convenience for patients and their families in the northern climate.

"Our goal for the design of Aurora Health Center was to create 'healing' architecture," says Alan Cobb, AIA, vice president and assistant chief of architectural design at Albert

Kahn. The concept is a comfortable, timeless architecture that projects a permanent image of long-lasting grace and simplicity, Cobb explains. So that patients endure no additional stress, central lobby and major corridors are located along exterior windows to provide good wayfinding. Attention to patient privacy in waiting rooms and dressing areas responds to an absolute need to respect patients' feelings. "Too many medical facilities are designed with only the efficiency of planning in mind—not so with Aurora Health Center," Cobb adds.

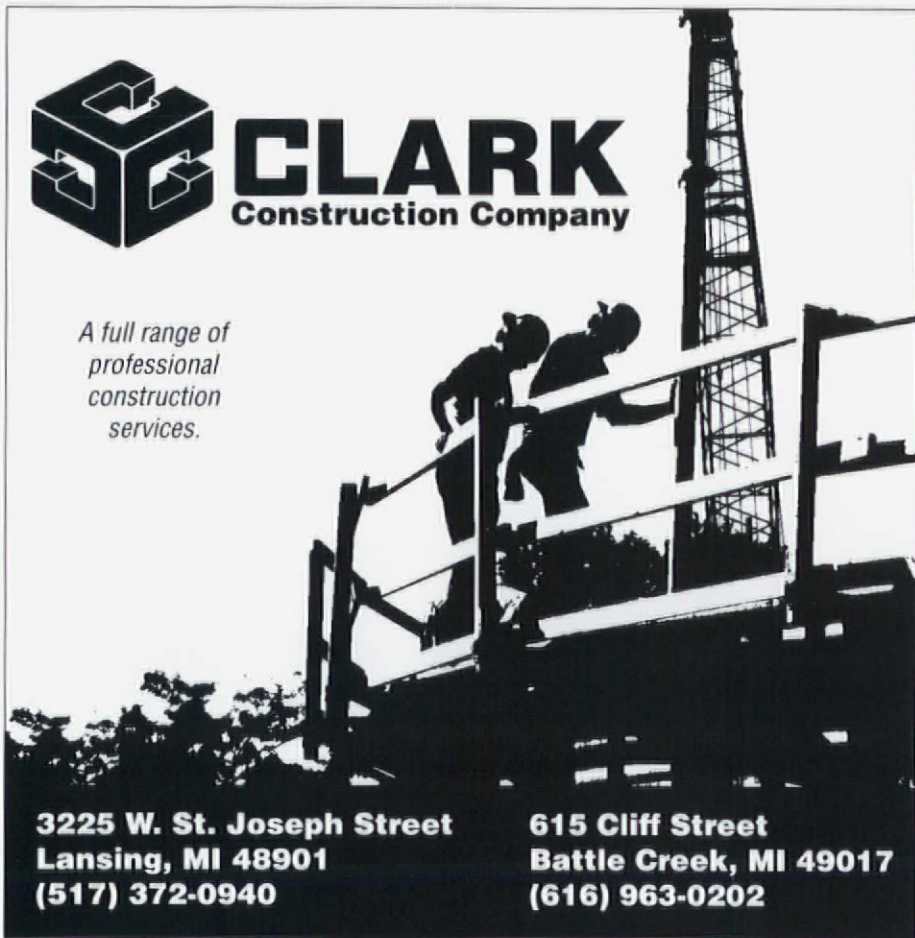
With Kenosha's population expected to continue to grow, the facility will no doubt become an increasingly valued member of the community. In fact, the new Aurora Health Center has already dubbed itself as a "friend of the family." It's a friendship designed and built to last. ▼

Project: Aurora Health Center  
Location: Kenosha, Wisconsin  
Developer: Hammes Company  
Architect-Engineer: Albert Kahn Associates, Inc.  
Construction Manager: M.A. Mortenson Company  
Photography: Eric Oxendorf



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PRIMARY CARE

# PLANTING SEEDS

**F**aced with a growing demand for outpatient services including outpatient surgery, this urban medical center formulated an ambitious plan for a full-service satellite Ambulatory Care Center. Located five miles north of the main hospital, the Ambulatory Care Center is viewed as the centerpiece of the Medical Center's ongoing development of their medical office building complex. Along with easing the surgery overload being experi-

enced by the main hospital, the Center will provide pre-admission testing, radiology and laboratory services in a convenient and patient-friendly setting.

The 17,000 square foot Ambulatory Care Center is designed for expansion to 30,000 square feet and has been sited to support the future campus development of additional medical office buildings and/or patient service facilities. The axial alignment of these build-

At night, the porte cochere is a welcoming element.







The exterior features rose colored brick with buff colored accents.

ings, along with the cross axis of the site entry, has been designed to harmoniously fit into the long range master plan for the adjacent 80-acre parcel which will someday accommodate a replacement hospital.

The Ambulatory Care Center "first phase" has been functionally planned around the following service zones:

- Public Waiting
- Radiology
- Laboratory
- Surgery
- Recovery
- Support Functions

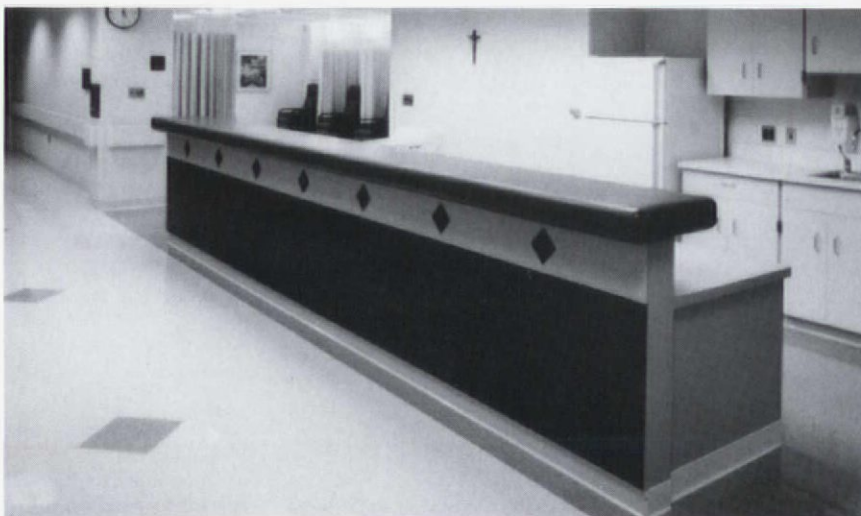
This zoning of the plan maximizes staff efficiency and simplifies patient flow while allowing for future expansion of each zone as need arises.

The exterior design of the one-story, steel framed building features a green colored,

standing seam metal roof which is easily visible from the nearby expressway and provides a unique non-institutional identity for the facility, appropriate to the suburban retail context of the site. This roof incorporates a porte cochere which terminates in a small outdoor pavilion space which will be furnished to expand public waiting options during warm weather.

The interior design scheme of the building is intended to evoke a residential feel, helping patients to feel comfortable. A predominant theme of teal green and mahogany wood exists throughout the facility, tying all areas together. Jewel tones of vibrant blue, green and burgundy were used as accent colors in the patient waiting area and recovery rooms, providing a stimulating, yet soothing environment. In the mammography area, colors are intentionally soft and calming. ▼

See next page for project credits.



Work areas are crisp and simple with consistent color accents.



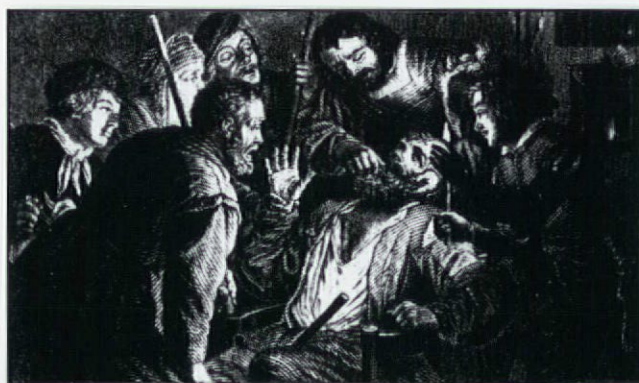


Patient waiting areas are modern and cheerful.

## St. Mary's Ambulatory Care Facility

Architect and Engineer: Giffels Hoyem Basso, Inc.  
 Landscape Architect: Grissim Metz Associates  
 Civil Engineer: Spicer Engineering, Inc.  
 Structural Engineer: W.W.Y. Engineering  
 Photography: Christopher Lark  
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## Request For Architectural Services

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority is interested in retaining the services of firms licensed in the profession of Architecture to provide design review of proposed housing developments.

Firms interested in interviewing with MSHDA to provide design review services shall submit resumes to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, 401 South Washington Square, P.O. Box 30044, Lansing, Michigan, 48909 by April 30, 1995.

Resumes shall include 1) the firm's experience in the discipline of the design of multi-family rental housing; and 2) the firm's previous experience in reviewing plans and specifications for multi-family housing.

**Experience in the design and or review of multi-family housing shall list experience in:**

- a. low-rise, mid-rise and high-rise residential buildings;
- b. family, elderly and congregate care developments;
- c. affordable and market rate housing;
- d. representative residential development size, scale and building types;
- e. representative construction types (wood frame, masonry, etc.);
- f. moderate and substantial rehabilitation, adaptive re-use and historic preservation; and
- g. knowledge of applicable codes and ordinances, MSHDA standards, barrier-free design and the Fair Housing Amendments Act.

Resumes shall also note that the firm is licensed, if it is a minority or female owned firm, and the willingness and availability of a principal of the firm to participate in the review process.

Contractual payment will be on an hourly basis. Firms should anticipate an annual contract in the amount of \$5,000. MSHDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

For further information interested firms may call Mr. James Flanigan or Mr. Robert Shirkey at (517) 335-2001. TDD Number 1-800-382-4568.



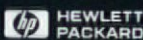
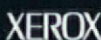
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PRIMARY CARE



Horizontal banding and prominent roof forms are signature design elements.

# VISION & LIGHT

by John Hopkins



The lobby form is reference to an "outcrop" which dominates the east facade.



**L**ansing Ophthalmology P.C. had a clear vision for its future. It wanted to establish itself as the premier regional ophthalmological center in the mid-Michigan area: a center of excellence, with a team of medical specialists and the latest technology, offering complete services from routine eye exams to diagnosing eye diseases to performing laser surgery, including 24 hour eye emergency treatment.

Operating four offices in three scattered locations, however, was inefficient. This, combined with the inadequacies of the existing facilities, and significant duplication of services, called for a change. Also, there was a lack of a coherent image and visibility.

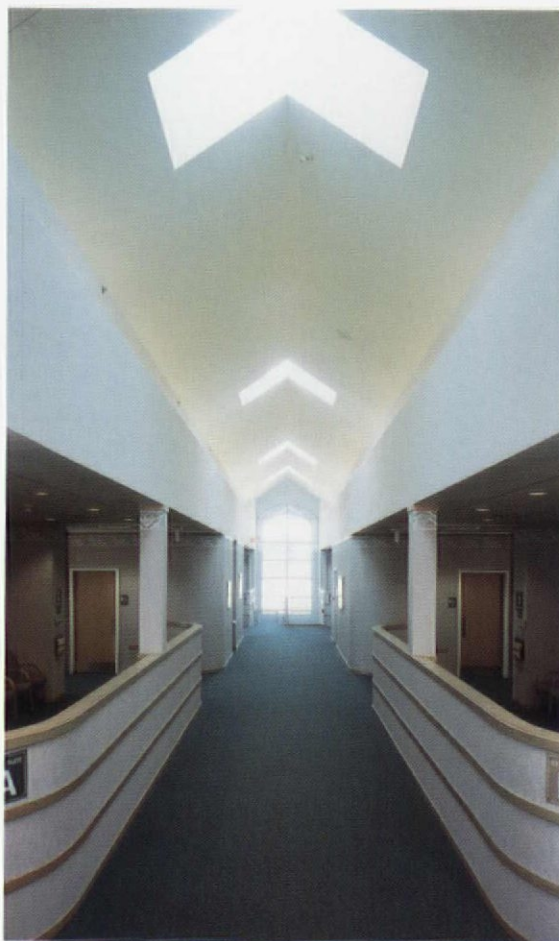
People value their sight highly. Although a routine eye exam should not be intimidating, many patients are nervous about the outcome of a visit. Placing patients at ease by providing a comfortable, pleasant, supporting environment was a priority. What was needed was a new facility that would create a carefully crafted, coherent, distinctive image. This image must be demonstrated throughout the structure, emphasizing professionalism and denoting care for patients' welfare. Furthermore, a professional, substantive, well-crafted building would reinforce patients' confidence in the quality of their medical treatment.

Lansing Ophthalmology conducted a national search and found the right experience and understanding in Eckert/Wordell Architects of nearby Kalamazoo. Knowing the professional guidance architects would provide in the evaluation and selection of a site, as well as in the development of a building program, Lansing Ophthalmology hired Eckert/Wordell Architects to provide these services as part of the whole design process.

The new facility demonstrates the wisdom of this. The building's distinctive forms have high visibility from the interstate that adjoins the site. It is a beautiful 12 acres, half of which is a protected wooded wetland, with the remainder an open meadow. By carefully placing the building, the architects have achieved a sympathetic relationship between the architecture and the natural terrain and woods.

On approach, the building is first glimpsed obliquely through the trees. The reception area with its pyramidal roof and the distinctive porte-cochere with their circular "eye" imagery predominate. Nearer, the road turns so that one's final approach is axial with the porte-cochere ocular framing the entry door and its repeated circular mullion pattern.

**continues**

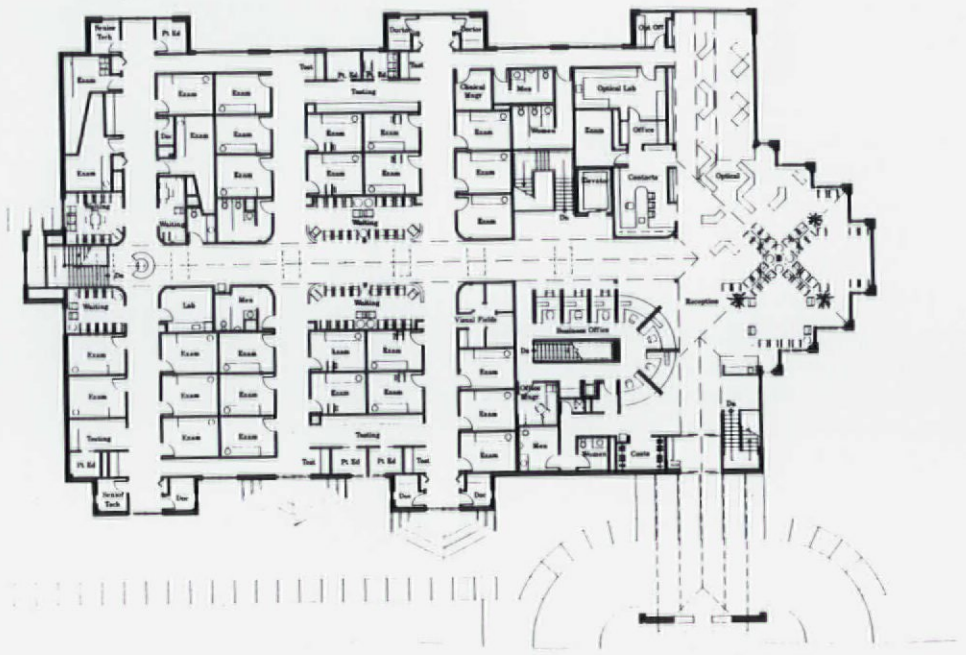


Inside, all "streets" terminate in light and views.



The "tree" anchors the patient lobby and is symbolic of the natural setting.





Upon entry is the semi-circular reception desk immediately on the left, with a generous soaring waiting space adjacent. Tall windows on three sides provide spectacular views of the woodlands and, with the help of a central skylight, flood the space with light. A central column "tree" visually dominates the space. One almost feels out-of-doors—a part of the natural setting. The serenity and peacefulness of this space is a pleasant welcome. The woodland views are also maximized by the design of the form, fenestration and cross section of the building. On the main level there are no dead end corridors; every corridor and most rooms that do not require darkness have both view and light.

The "tree" not only marks the center and axial disposition of the waiting space, but is also the terminator of the axis that organizes the whole building. Along this main east-west vaulted and skylighted circulation spine are six small scaled pods. Each consists of 5 examination rooms and shared service spaces. Clustered along the spine are the waiting areas. Easy to locate and well placed to serve each pod they each have views of the constant activity of the "main street" circulation. Both patients and staff find this hierarchical idea of circulation, with its "main street," "side streets" and interconnecting "alleys," to be clear, functional and efficient. The clarity of this organizational concept is further expressed on the exterior through the massing of the roofs. Other spaces on the main level include offices, a lab and a retail optical shop.

The elevator and main stair to the lower level are conveniently located along the central

spine. The lower level houses two additional examination pods, minor surgery, files, offices, staff lounge and other staff service areas. The sloping site and subgrade terracing are taken advantage of here, giving full facade exposure to much of this level.

The facility manifests architectural care and community concern in a building type so often reduced to the lowest common denominator of speculative banality. The architects have clearly and successfully devoted much consideration to the integration of the building with its site. Further, themes of earth and landscape are particularly evident. For example, brickwork does not just remind us of permanence or conjure up civic and community images, but is of the earth. The earth-colored brickwork with repeating horizontal banding also contains subtle glazed accent brick reminiscent of fossils embedded in exposed horizontal strata. The fractured plan and roofline of the "outcrop" form of the main reception area is a further geomorphic reference. Also, the long hipped roofs make visual allusions to the Prairie style regional architectural tradition as well as to the more abstract topographic forms of the site.

When visiting Lansing Ophthalmology P.C., one immediately feels flooded with light. Many benefits flow from the architects attention to natural lighting and views. The interior presents a cheery, generous and open setting. Both patients and staff maintain visual contact with the real world and so are aware of the passing of time and subtle changes in outside light. Also, orientation is reinforced by extra daylight given to the major circulation spine.



The knockout punch of the dichotomies of light and dark, of earth and sky, comes when these ideas unite in the central "tree" structure of the reception area, from which the whole formal structure of the building emanates. Surrounded by expansive horizontal views to the nature it idealizes and capped by a pyramidal roof and central skylight that symbolizes the vertical connection to the sky stands the abstracted tree form, firmly rooted in the earth—reaching toward the light. Finally how fitting that the optimism of the life-giving presence of light, be such a strong symbolic

force in this building. Actually, vision is most centrally about light. ▼

Owner: L.O. Partners  
Architects: Eckert/Wordell Architects, P.C.  
Construction Manager: The Christman Company  
Mechanical/Electrical Engineering:  
Criner & Wedeven, Inc.  
Structural Engineers: JDH Engineering, Inc.  
Landscape Architects:  
O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc.  
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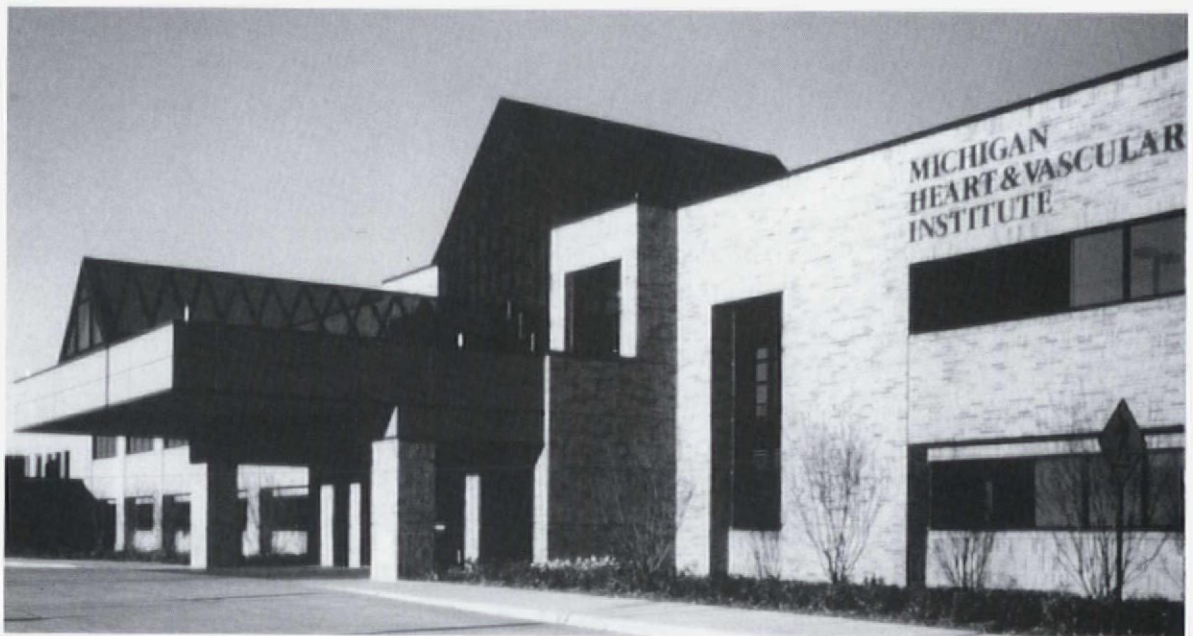


Lobby materials support the design concept of patient comfort and convenience.



PRIMARY CARE

# HEART & SOUL



The solid exterior features a skylight canopy and lobby.

**S**eeing to improve the quality of service for their patients, several groups of prominent heart specialists have joined together to form the Michigan Heart & Vascular Institute. Their practices are now housed in a new 85,000 square foot facility located on the campus of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Designed by Jickling Lyman and Powell Associates of Troy, the new Michigan Heart & Vascular Institute Medical Center is one of the few facilities in the nation that offers comprehensive outpatient cardiovascular care. Within the

continues



The two-story entrance lobby is flooded with natural light from above.



Creative detailing brings a warming sense of scale to the institute's important spaces.



facility, physicians and staff provide a complete continuum of care ranging from evaluation to diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation.

The MHVI Medical Center houses the most advanced technology, but has been designed to maximize the comfort and convenience of patients and families. The facility permits emphasis on high quality care delivered in a cost-efficient, outpatient setting.

The new two-story building contains four physician group practices, a cardiac rehabilitation program, non-invasive vascular and cardiac testing areas, a cardiac catheterization laboratory and recovery center, an education center and clinical research space.

Completed in 1994, the building design focuses on an interior environment which is articulate as well as pleasing. Subtle attention to detail creates interesting yet patient oriented space. It is indeed a welcome addition to the "heart" of the St. Joseph Mercy campus. ▼

Project: Michigan Heart & Vascular Institute,  
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Campus  
Architect: Jickling Lyman Powell Associates Inc.  
Interior Designer: JNV Associates, Inc.  
Mechanical/Electrical Engineers: Peter Basso Associates, Inc.  
Structural Engineering: Cummins & Barnard, Inc.  
Contractor: O'Neal Construction, Inc.  
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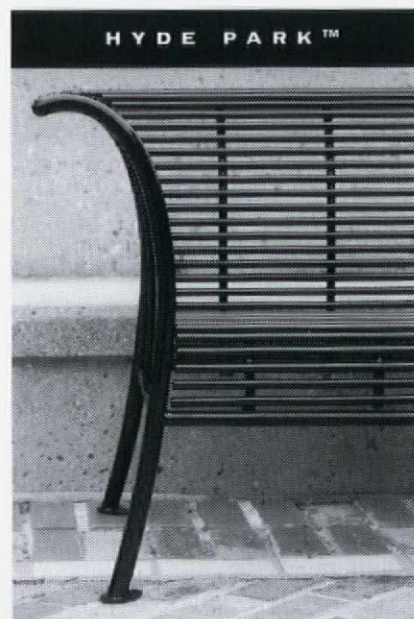
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Korab's Last Word and Picture



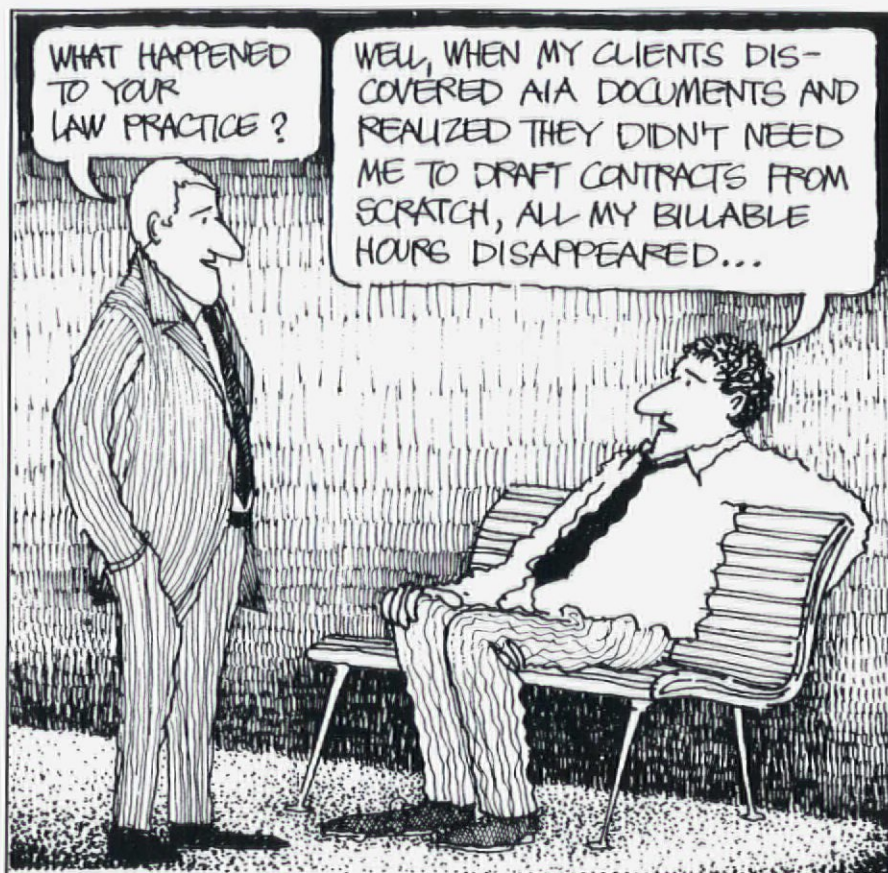
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